

Masthead Logo

The Iowa Review

Volume 27

Issue 2 *Summer/Fall*

Article 44

1997

Donkey Blues

Ambrose Massaquoi

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Massaquoi, Ambrose. "Donkey Blues." *The Iowa Review* 27.2 (1997): 111-111. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.4912>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Ambrose Massaquoi

DONKEY BLUES

(Voice of a Sierra Leonean cart pusher in the Gambia)

I rap forage razed
By my donkeywork
Mean, rap forage razed
By my donkeywork
In sand tethered to Sun in the Gambia
Rapping forage razed
By my donkeywork.

I dance my tail to
Tunes of my torment
Thrum of flies groove my yaws in the Gambia
Dancing my tail to
Tunes of my torment.
I stomp my hinds bruised
By my slave shackles
Umph, hoof my hinds bruised
By my slave shackles
Lays of fleas pulse my wounds in the Gambia
Stomping my hinds bruised
By my slave shackles.

I blow my bugle
Burst by my burdens
Yeah, blow my bugle
Burst by my burdens.

23/8/93—Farafinni, Gambia